

Earlier this month I visited the Joseph House in Cincinnati, where Nathan Pelletier and his team of dedicated staff and volunteers provide addiction treatment and traditional housing.

A group of us meeting there, mostly veterans who are homeless or were homeless, listened to Britton Carter, who was formerly homeless. He completed his treatment program in the Joseph House. He now works as a case manager there helping other struggling veterans.

Veterans such as Mr. Carter have served our country with honor. We owe them support, and we owe them counseling when they return home. That is why I joined my colleagues in introducing the Veteran Housing Stability Act of 2015, which would make meaningful improvements to services for homeless veterans that would give veterans more access to permanent housing opportunities.

We know in the Veterans' Affairs Committee a number of things. We know that the unemployment rate of veterans is generally higher than society's unemployment rate. We know that veterans' suicide rate is higher than society's suicide rate. We know that veterans' drug addiction is higher than society's drug addiction rate. We know that veterans have suffered from PTSD and traumatic brain injury in numbers much higher than the general population. That is why we owe them so much. We in this body so rarely think about the cost of war.

We, as I said earlier, are willing to send more money to buy more weapons, to spend more money in armaments. We are not so generous when it comes time to take care of our veterans.

HONOR FLIGHTS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, the last point I wish to make before turning to the Senator from Oklahoma is something that we call Honor Flights. One of the great things that have come out of the National World War II Memorial is that men and women who have served in World War II are now getting the opportunity to go to visit this National World War II Memorial.

Retired Air Force Capt. Earl Morse, who worked in a VA clinic in Springfield, OH, would often talk with his World War II veteran patriots. He realized that for most of these veterans, their dream of seeing the memorial built on the National Mall would never come true. So one day in 2004, Captain Morse, a pilot and a member of the air club at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, asked one of his patients if he could personally fly him to Washington free of charge. The veteran, Mr. Loy, broke down in tears and accepted Earl's offer. Soon Earl was offering to fly other World War II veterans to visit the memorial and soliciting help from other pilots.

Eleven pilots from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base volunteered. In May

2005, the first Honor Flight took off from Springfield, OH.

A decade later, the Honor Flight Network is a national nonprofit that has flown 100,000 veterans, usually 40 or 50 or 60 at a time in a charter flight—always with a caretaker because these veterans are never young. They are World War II veterans. They have been out of the service now for 70 years at least.

The Honor Flight Program is in 41 States. I have had the honor of meeting a number of them. Toledo, OH, seems to be one which has particularly excelled and is encouraging local people, raising local money and getting every single veteran from northwest Ohio who was able to and wanted to join these Honor Flights.

I will quote one of these volunteers. Jim Salamon works for the Honor Flight Program in Dayton. He told me of a volunteer who goes by Ace and who works at an Arby's in Maryland and provides discounted meals for Honor Flight Program attendees. Jim said:

Ace is part of Honor Flight Dayton's family. We rely on Ace and he has not let us down. Over the last nine years Ace has saved us more than \$30,000 [because of Arby's donating these meals], which pays the cost of transporting 92 veterans.

With an average of 800 World War II veterans dying each day, the mission of the Honor Flight Program is more important now than ever.

I am thankful to those who have helped Honor Flight. I am thankful to those veterans and their families who have done so much.

I remind my colleagues, as they are always eager to vote for more money for weapons, that we should understand and think about the cost of war and take care of our returning servicemembers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, there is a lot of news that is happening this week. There are a lot of things going on—an incredible celebration of veterans and the recognition they are very worthy of. That is the 1 percent in our Nation that actually secures the security of the rest of the 99 percent of our Nation.

We could not be more grateful—members of my own family, myself, and the proud people of Oklahoma who celebrate our veterans every single day of the year. We are very pleased to be able to do that.

OBAMACARE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, we have a lot of information this week about ObamaCare hearings. They are again back in the news because the administration has filed a lawsuit against the Little Sisters of the Poor to compel

them to violate their faith and to be able to put into practice the principles of ObamaCare rather than their own personal faith.

So the Obama administration is taking a group of nuns called the Little Sisters of the Poor all the way to the Supreme Court to compel them to cave on their faith. That case actually includes four universities from my State of Oklahoma as well that are grouped together with this group from the Little Sisters of the Poor that will all have to go before the Supreme Court to validate their faith publicly in front of the Nation while the administration tries to tell them they can't practice their faith in America.

GITMO

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, we also have news this week that the President is trying to push through Gitmo and he is trying to change Gitmo through some sort of Executive action. We don't know exactly what that is.

He seems to have this flippant attitude about what is going to happen at Guantanamo Bay, saying we can move them into the United States more cheaply. Well, I would tell you—as a person who has been to Guantanamo Bay and has seen that facility and am very aware of what is going on there—we are missing one big element. The terrorists do not know who the guards are at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Nor do they have access to their families.

And while they are infuriated about Gitmo, I promise you if those prisoners are moved into Colorado, Oklahoma or Kansas or any other place, the terrorists overseas won't rage about Gitmo anymore, they will then rage about Colorado or they will then rage about Illinois or wherever those prisoners are being held. They are not mad at Gitmo and the treatment there. They are mad that these terrorists, whom they have affection for, are being detained by the United States of America. Right now all of the individuals who are guarding those individuals and keeping them detained will no longer be hidden anymore because terrorists could linger around the outside of these facilities and contact the different guards that are coming in and out. Suddenly, the guards and their family members become exposed and the stakes for those individuals are exposed.

He is not thinking through the real consequences of flippantly moving these individuals into the United States. It is a big issue that we face.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, but I have to say this last weekend, as I was going through all the different news and the many things that we track, I was quite surprised last Friday afternoon at the way the President addressed something that this Nation has